

wards learned, in another wood a few miles away, Mr. B. Morley was also astonished to find the species in immense multitudes; indeed, in a paper on the subject (*Naturalist*, November, 1907, pp. 392-4) he states that the species was "in a countless swarm. * * * To walk about the wood meant killing them at every step. The herbage and bushes were simply alive with them, everything was spangled all over with their white wings. But evidences of tragedy abounded everywhere—bodiless wings littered the ground; thousands were drowned in the stream; hopelessly deformed examples were crawling about on every hand, crippled in every conceivable way." The large number of specimens suggested to Mr. Morley the probability of "varieties" among them, and he was not disappointed, for he was able to pick out a magnificent series comprising "all sorts of forms," from very pale with few marks, to the fine melanic lead-coloured form which was found in some abundance a few years ago by the York collectors at Sledmere on the Yorkshire Wolds, and of which form Mr. Morley picked up a few beautiful examples among the hosts of the species.

My primary object in writing this note is because in the "List of Yorkshire Lepidoptera" I specially note this lead-coloured form as an illustration of melanism *not* occurring in the smoky South-west Riding of Yorkshire, *i. e.*, in the area where melanism has been chiefly noticed; but as occurring in the Sledmere district, where there is no smoke, and but little other melanism. Now, of course, the illustration will no longer hold good, for although no trace of melanism in *ulmata* has ever previously been seen in the Huddersfield district, apparently there only wanted either a sufficient number of specimens to bring it out, or else it is the direct result of some exceptional circumstance. I think the latter supposition the more probable on account of the large percentage of crippled or diseased specimens which has always accompanied the melanism in this species. Exactly the same thing occurred at Sledmere. For several consecutive seasons prior to 1901 the species occurred in profusion, with the melanic and intermediate forms common, but always accompanied by thousands of crippled examples. About that date the disease apparently worked itself out, for since then the insect has been quite a scarce species in the wood, and scarcely a variety to be found. This points to the variation in this species as being caused by disease, and it will be interesting to observe whether Huddersfield will furnish a parallel case. Why too this particular insect should occur in such extraordinary numbers in a season when nearly all other species were exceptionally scarce is a problem which is probably beyond solution at present.—GEO. T. PORRITT, Edgerton, Huddersfield: *January 6th*, 1908.

Note on the genus Antecerooccus, Green.—In the *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.*, p. 560 (1900), I erected the genus *Antecerooccus* to contain a species (*A. punctiferus*) in which the test of the adult female was incomplete and not separable from the body of the insect. The test was also characterized by the presence of tufts of glassy filaments. The insect itself was in no wise distinguishable from a typical *Cerooccus*.

The subsequent examination of further material in a more advanced stage of development shows me that *A. punctiferus* eventually develops a complete test freely separable from the body of the insect, and that it then loses more or less

completely the earlier tufts of filaments. I am now, therefore, of opinion that *Antecerooccus* must be considered a synonym of *Cerooccus*, and represents only the early adult stage of the species for which the name was founded. Recent examination of an allied form from India has confirmed me in this opinion.

Maskell's *Planchonia bryoides*, which—on my authority—was relegated to *Antecerooccus*, must also be removed to the genus *Cerooccus*. It passes through similar stages of incomplete and complete test, but retains the characteristic tufts of filaments that suggested the name of the insect.

I have recently received from the author an interesting paper entitled "On *Cerooccus eremobius*, gen. et sp. n., an aberrant form of *Coccidæ*" (Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. ix, part 12, p. 455 (1907)). A careful study of the description and excellent figures of the supposed new genus lead me to suspect very strongly that this also has been similarly founded upon the early adult stage of an insect that is perfectly referable to the genus *Cerooccus*. The author himself, after describing the cup-shaped test (or ovisac) with "sometimes a slight spout-like prolongation," remarks (p. 462), "Such is the structure in the great majority of specimens. But in a very few of the dried specimens the ovisac has proved to be completely closed except for an opening on the somewhat spout-like prolongation corresponding to the tail of the insect. . . . It appears as if, at a later stage in the life-history than that attained by most of these specimens, more secretory material is added to the open cup, so that the latter becomes a closed structure, as is the case in the allied genus *Asterolecanium*." This being the case, there is nothing in the character of the contained insect to separate it from its still nearer allies in the genus *Cerooccus*. In any case, the adoption of a name so closely resembling that of a nearly related genus is unfortunate.—E. ERNEST GREEN, Peradeniya, Ceylon: December 10th, 1907.

Pachycoleus rufescens, Sahlb., at Loddiswell, South Devon.—I have pleasure in noting another locality, as above, for this interesting little Hemipteron recorded as new to Britain by Mr. G. C. Champion in last month's issue of this Magazine. Five or six specimens were shaken out of moss from a streamlet in the woods, but of these I regret to say I brought home but a single example. The fact was that I examined and discarded the first individual I put into a tube, as it seemed immature. I have wondered since whether the strong transverse nervure on the hemelytra may have deceived me in this respect. Like Mr. Champion I was under the guidance of our mutual friend, Mr. P. de la Garde, to whom I instantly wrote on my return, as soon as the specimen was set and found to be mature, urging him to search for more. Up to the present, however, his endeavours have not been rewarded. Although so small, *P. rufescens* is readily discernible on the collecting sheet by its fleshy colour, as well as by its *Salda*-like power of leaping; the latter propensity and its fragile structure, however, render it rather uneasy to capture.—JAMES H. KEYS, "Morwell," Lipson Road, Plymouth: January 15th, 1908.

Some scarce British Neuropteroidea from Suffolk.—I am much obliged to Mr. Claude Morley for submitting to me recently quite a large number of *Neuropteroidea* taken by him in various localities, but chiefly in Suffolk. There are at least three or four species which call for special mention.